

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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P R 020800Z MAY 66
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3231
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ABIDJAN 4370

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNCTAD, ETRD
SUBJ: UNCTAD SEMINARS ON TROPICAL TIMBER

REF: STATE 093723

1. THE EMBASSY HAS CONFIRMED FROM BOTH AND IVORIAN
OFFICIAL AND UNDP DEPUTY RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE
THAT AN UNCTAD SEMINAR LASTING THREE DAYS DID TAKE
PLACE IN ABIDJAN THE WEEK OF APRIL 18. THE PLENARY
SESSION WAS PRESIDED OVER BY THE MINISTER OF WATER AND
FORESTS, M. KOFFI ATTOBRA. EXPERTS PARTICIPATED IN
OTHER SESSIONS.

2. FIVE MEMBERS OF THE TWELVE-MEMBER AFRICAN
TIMBER ORGANIZATION ATTENDED: IVORY COAST, GABON
(THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE ASSOCIATION), GHANA, CAMEROON, AND CONGO
TWO UNCTAD OFFICIALS ATTENDED, THE SENIOR OF WHICH NAMED
MARTINER ONCE SERVED WITH THE ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA (ECLA).

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3. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING, WHICH REPORTEDLY
IS BASED ON A PROGRAM WITH HEADQUARTERS IN BUYANA,
SOUTH AMERICA, WAS TO DISCUSS THE MARKETING OF
TIMBER, AND PARTICULARLY THE FEASIBILITY OF
STOCKPILING TROPICAL HARDWOODS. THE IVORIAN
SOURCE SAID THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INSTITUTE

OF TROPICAL HARDWOODS AT GENEVA WAS DISCUSSED, THAT THE AFRICANS WOULD PARTICIPATE THROUGH THEIR LIBREVILLE-BASED ORGANIZATION, AND THAT UNCTAD WAS ATTEMPTING TO ORGANIZE SOUTH AMERICAN AND ASIAN TROPICAL TIMBER PRODUCERS AS WELL. HE SAID EVERY SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION WAS IN THE TALKING STAGE. THE UNDP SOURCE SAID SOME DECISIONS HAD BEEN MADE, BUT NO DOCUMENTATION HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE.

4. M. KOFFI ATTOBRA, THE MINISTER OF WATER AND FORESTS, WILL ATTEND THE UNCTAD CONSULTATIONS IN GENEVA IN MAY.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH NO DELIBERATE ATTEMPT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN MADE TO KEEP THE MEETING A SECRET, IT WAS CERTAINLY GIVEN NO PUBLICITY. INSTEAD, IT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN NEATLY CAMOUFLAGED UNDER A MEETING SPONSORED BY THE PARIS-BASED L'AGENCE DE COOPERATION CULTURELLE ET TECHNIQUE SUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT DE L'UTILISATION DU BOIS. THIS MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY THE GABONESE, GHANIAN, CONGOLESE, AND CAMEROONIAN REPRESENTATIVES AS WELL, AND KOFFI ATTOBRA WAS THERE WITH TWO OTHER IVORIAN MINISTERS. THE MEETING DISCUSSED INDUSTRIALIZATION OF IVORY COAST'S FOREST PROGRAM, AND WAS GIVEN A HALF-PAGE IN THE APRIL 22 EDITION OF THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED DAILY, FRATERNITE MATIN. END COMMENT.

STEARNS

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